

MGF 015 - 81

8 December 1981

Memorandum for : Director, FBIS  
Through : Chief, Operations Group  
Subject : Monthly Report--Gulf Bureau--November 1981

## I. GENERAL

We commissioned our microwave communications link with the embassy on 29 November. Bureau engineer [ ] was STAT confronted with the usual number of gremlins in the course of installation, but on the whole the system performed well from the moment it was turned on. We are now using this link full time. We are also retaining our old landline in the event of future need.

Recruiting efforts initialed early this fall finally resulted in some promising responses. Two candidates in Pakistan possessing Baluchi as well as a number of other area languages have responded as well as a Kurdish-speaking candidate in Kuwait. With headquarters' concurrence we hope to interview and test-early in the new year.

A No Objection Certificate for new monitor [ ] STAT [ ] was finally issued during the month. [ ] STAT unique status as a Afghan refugee living in the United States and preparing to travel on a U.S. travel document compelled the authorities here to make a closer examination of our NOC request than is normally the case.

## II. OPERATIONS

### A. Monitorial/Editorial

1. The summit meeting of the Gulf Cooperation Council held in Riyadh 10 and 11 November provided the bureau another opportunity to use its videotaping equipment. Video selection lists were filed on the opening and closing sessions as carried live by Riyadh television. The tapes were subsequently requested for viewing in headquarters.

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2. PMU resumed coverage of Saudi and Kuwaiti newspapers and Arabic weekly magazines published in London. We had been covering these during the PMU monitors' TDY in Jordan and Nicosia bureaus in the aftermath of Egyptian President Sadat's assassination.

3. In this regard, when we picked up coverage of the Saudi papers following Sadat's death, we found it virtually impossible to get regular deliveries because local news agents had stopped handling Saudi papers due to the virtually non-existent public demand for them here. To get around this we are obtaining subscriptions to the major papers, two of which are not covered by PMU. The two not covered by PMU are Al-Bilad and Al-Madinah. We will add these to Gulf's coverage and retain the other papers for background reading and to assist PMU, if or when that may be required.

4. The Saudi charge of a 9 November Israeli violation of Saudi airspace was monitored during the 1830 GMT Riyadh television newscast and promptly filed at immediate precedence.

5. Omdurman Domestic Service was heard for the first time during the month and placed on experimental coverage. Reception, however, continues to be very poor and we have only been able to file a very few items.

6. A major speech by Libyan leader Al-Qadhdhafi delivered 28 November on the occasion of the return of Libyan troops from Chad was monitored with fair/good reception on Tripoli radio. Gulf was able to process the initial 25-minute segment of the speech, which was poorly heard in London and Nicosia, and also to provide several fills and corrections to flash excerpts filed by the other two bureaus.

7. Reception of the 1330 GMT Kabul in Urdu to South Asia program improved dramatically during the month when the transmitter moved to a new frequency of 9550 KHZ. Unfortunately, toward the end of month the radio reverted to using its old frequency of 6230 KHZ, again confronting us with poor reception conditions.

8. Periodic reception checks of the clandestine Voice of Mojahedin-e Khalq transmitter continued. Reception at Gulf has generally been poor to unmonitorable.

9. Efforts to monitor Tbilisi Domestic Service for materials on the Georgian party plenum and Supreme Soviet session were fruitless. Unlike last year, Tbilisi was not heard to boost transmitter power during the sessions and the radio remained unheard despite extensive cruising of all known frequencies.

10. A five-take editorial report was wirefiled rounding up Gulf media reaction to the aborted Arab summit conference in FES, Morocco.



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Bureau Chief